

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06399 221002Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 AF-10 EUR-12 HA-05 SSM-03 ACDA-12  
/112 W

-----123815 221051Z /11

R 220700Z DEC 77  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6218  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6399

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PLO EG  
SUBJ: ARAFAT'S VIEWS: REPORT FROM AMERICAN JOURNALIST

1. GEORGIA ANNE GEYER OF LOS ANGELES TIMES MET WITH ARAFAT IN BEIRUT DECEMBER 19. FOLLOWING WERE HIGH POINTS AS RECOUNTED TO US:
2. ARAFAT SAID HE HAD BEEN ABOUT TO LEAVE CAIRO ENROUTE TO TRIPOLI ON MEDIATION MISSION, HAVING JUST TRANSMITTED TO SADAT QADHAFI'S OFFER OF 500 TANKS AND SQUADRONS OF PLANES, WHEN HE WAS CALLED BY SADAT. TWENTY MINUTES LATER HE FOUND HIMSELF IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY LISTENING TO SPEECH IN WHICH SADAT SAID HE WOULD GO TO KNESSET. HE HAD THOUGHT THIS WAS PUBLICITY STUNT AND DID NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. BY GOING THROUGH WITH IT SADAT HAD KICKED HIM (ARAFAT) OFF THE STAGE AND BROUGHT HIM LOW. GEYER SAID ARAFAT NEVERTHELESS SEEMED TO BE IN GOOD SPIRITS AND SAID THAT ADVERSITY WAS ALWAYS A TONIC TO HIM.

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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 06399 221002Z

3. ARAFAT AND OTHER PLO FIGURES WITH WHOM SHE TALKED SAID THEY THOUGHT ANOTHER WAR WITH ISRAEL WAS INEVITABLE. ASKED WHERE IT WOULD START, ARAFAT SAID SOUTH LEBANON WAS MOST LIKELY SPOT.
4. WALID KHALIDI HAD TOLD HER PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION ISSUE AT GENEVA HAD BEEN ALL BUT WORKED OUT WHEN SADAT

DROPPED HIS BOMB. ARAFAT CONFIRMED THIS BUT REFUSED TO GIVE NAMES OF PALESTINIANS SELECTED.

5. ARAFAT HAD TOLD HER LIBYANS HAD SENT LARGE SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO SYRIA LAST WEEK. IT INCLUDED SOVIET MISSILES WITH RANGE OF 700 KILOMETERS. SHE HAD HEARD SAME STORY FROM GHASSEN TUENI AND ONE OTHER SOURCE AND WAS CONVINCED IT TRUE.

6. SHE WAS IMPRESSED BY FREQUENT REFERENCES TO SOVIETS. ARAFAT AND OTHERS HAD SAID THEY COULD NOT GO TO CAIRO WITHOUT "OUR FRIENDS". SHE ASKED IF THEY MEANT SYRIANS AND THEY HAD SAID NO, SOVIETS. SHE HAS IMPRESSION PALESTINIANS COUNTING HEAVILY ON SOVIETS AND GETTING GUIDANCE FROM THEM.

7. ABOVE GIVEN TO MISS GEYER OFF THE RECORD BY ARAFAT AND SHE DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTRIBUTE IT TO HIM. NEVERTHELESS REQUEST THAT NO PART OF IT BE MADE PUBLIC TO PROTECT HER RIGHTS TO STORY.  
PARKER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009